

ABSTRACT

The present invention is an autonomous response engine and method that can more successfully mimic a human conversational exchange. In an exemplary, preferred embodiment of the invention, the response engine has a statement-response database that is autonomously updated, thus enabling a database of significant size to be easily created and maintained with current information. The response engine autonomously generates natural language responses to natural language queries by following one of several conversation strategies, by choosing at least one context element from a context database and by searching the updated statement-response data base for appropriate matches to the queries.